



Costa Mesa Sanitary District

....an Independent Special District

IMPORTANT INFORMATION RELATED TO THE CONSOLIDATION ELECTION

The question of whether the Costa Mesa Sanitary District and the Mesa Water District should be consolidated will be presented to you in the Nov 8, 2016 election. Voters should know important facts before voting on this advisory measure.

\$330,664 has been authorized by Mesa Water District to be spent on consultants, lobbyists and public relations firms to convince you that consolidation is a good idea. That also does not include two law firms that are working on this matter, Rutan & Tucker and Bowie Arneson Wiles & Gianone. Because the studies and materials produced by this money is flawed, voters need to be informed of the other side of the story.

Public Records Request

CMSD obtained this information after submitting a Public Records Request to Mesa Water on July 29, 2016. Mesa Water delayed responding to CMSD's request by indicating the records would not be available until September 21, 2016, nearly two months after receiving the public records request. CMSD notified Mesa Water District that they were violating State law, Government Code Section 6253, subdivision (b) by not promptly making the records available, and Mesa Water was intending, "...to delay or obstruct the inspection or copying of public records," in violation of subdivision (c). It is painfully obvious now that Mesa Water officials did not want the public to know how much of your tax dollars they are spending on this endeavor. On August 29th Mesa Water submitted to CMSD readily available and commonly disclosed records such as board agendas, minutes, staff reports, contracts, and studies.

Merger Discussion

Mesa Water District has a timeline regarding this matter on the home page of its web site, and Board members and staff have been telling everyone that the idea to merge with CMSD first came about in April 2016. However, the documents obtained from the Public Records Act request show that the Mesa Water District Board began discussing the merger on March 21, 2015. Mesa Water officials had been discussing the merger for more than a year before they reached out to CMSD and the Local Agency Formation Commission, the neutral agency that reviews and ultimately votes on consolidations.



Mesa Water Performed Two Studies

Documents obtained from the public records request show that on June 13, 2016, Mesa Water received a combined service evaluation study from LA Consulting, Inc. The cost of the study was \$21,000. Apparently, Mesa Water officials did not like the results of the study and a month later spent another \$30,000 on a flawed and inaccurate study performed by Arcadis U.S., Inc.

How Mesa Water is Spending Your Tax Dollars

Mesa Water is contending that they would be a better steward of your money. From the documents obtained from the public records request, here is how Mesa Water District is spending your tax dollars to convince you that a merger with CMSD is a good idea.

LA Consulting	1st study	\$ 21,076
Lewis Consulting Group	Lobbyist	25,000
Communications Lab	Public Relations	50,000
Arcadis U.S., Inc.	2nd Study	29,960
Advisory Measure	Elections	66,628
Arcadis Change Order	3rd Study	50,000
Public Outreach	Advocacy	88,000
TOTAL:		\$ 330,664

The Other Side

Voters should consider the analysis of the Arcadis Study done by Marc Davis, Certified Public Accountant with over 30 years of experience in governmental auditing, accounting and finance management. You can access his analysis by visiting CMSD's website at www.cmsdca.gov. The projections in Mesa's Study are flawed and it is not clear how savings, rebates, and wastewater reductions could be made in the amounts suggested.

Contact Mesa Water District Officials

Contact Mesa Water District officials to ask them about these expenditures and to find out how they came up with their projections. Make sure you know the facts before voting on the November 8, 2016 election, and access CMSD's analysis to ensure you know the facts before voting.

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